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INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Costa Rica/Guatemala/Mexico

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SUBJECT Projected Return of Manuel Mora Valverde
to Costa Rica

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NO. OF ENCLS.
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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Vanguardia Popular Party of Costa Rica plans to hold a National Congress* almost immediately upon the return of its founder and former mentor, Manuel Mora Valverde, from his eighteen months of exile in Mexico City. At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Vanguardia Popular Political Commission, on 12 March 1950, a resolution dealing with the return of Mora, presented by Carlos Luis Fallas Sibaja, was adopted. It was agreed to write to Mora immediately, requesting him to forward a letter to San Jose, for newspaper publication, in which he was to state his personal desire to return and give his reasons. Also, it was decided to request Mora to proceed to Guatemala and to remain there for some twenty days studying the Communist situation in that country, where he was to await definite instructions from the Political Commission before actually coming to San Jose.
2. Although not appearing in the text of the resolution, the reasoning of the Political Commission was to the effect that a letter from Mora would make it clear to the public and the Party members that he was returning of his own free will and not upon instructions from the Party. Depending upon public reaction, [REDACTED] that the Political Commission is still hoping to be able to force the Costa Rican government into accepting some responsibility for the personal safety of Mora.
3. The National Congress is expected to produce some fireworks. During Mora's absence, the Party has functioned clandestinely under the direction of Arnaldo Ferreto Segura, and it is common knowledge that strife of a sort will develop between the present and former leaders. Aside from motivations of personal power, the two are expected to disagree on procedure, since they are ideologically as far apart as the general confines of Communist theory will permit: Mora to the right, and Ferreto to the left. In the present instance, Ferreto is maneuvering to improve and consolidate his own position as much as possible, prior to the return of Mora. The entire Political Commission, [REDACTED], appears to be somewhat sympathetic to Ferreto, each individual realizing that with the return of Mora his own particular lustre will be dimmed if not extinguished by the political ability and personal appeal of the exiled leader.

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4. Meantime, it was [REDACTED] that a farewell party was given for Manuel Mora on 1 March 1950 in Mexico City by Vicente Lombardo Toledano and Cesar Godoy. A large group of leftist intellectuals attended. On 3 March, Mora departed for Guatemala City, via Taca airlines, supposedly en route for Costa Rica. However, Mora returned to Mexico on 12 March and was [REDACTED] at the offices of the Mexican Communist Party on 13 March 1950.

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[REDACTED] Comment: Specific instructions for the Congress have not yet been issued to Vanguardia members, owing partly to the uncertainty of Mora's return, and largely to the clandestine nature of the Party. Such a gathering would be difficult to hold in secret, and yet if it were even partially overt, or held in some other guise, it would provide the long-expected showdown between the Communists and the government, which neither side is sure that it wants. According to various well-placed informants, the Communists would like to clarify their status, which has never been tested under the provisions of the new Costa Rican constitution, and which is not precisely delineated therein. At the same time, however, they are reasonably well satisfied with their progress in the semi-overt manner in which they have been operating and do not care to provoke the government into any specific declarations of Communist illegality and the possibility of more forceful and effective repression.